[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know that due to the paucity of time, you could not accommodate everything. I am not blaming you or anybody for that. But I would like to draw your attention and, through you, Sir, the Government's to the plight of a few lakhs of jute workers in West Bengal which may be taken into consideration by the Government. When the house meets next time - tomorrow is the last day - I request tHat you may give first preference to the Calling Attention Notice that we have tabled and, in the meantime, the Government may look into the problems of the jute workers in West Bengal. This is a very serious situation because lakhs and lakhs of jute workers are becoming unemployed everyday.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, the latest UNDP Report, better known as the Human Development Report, in its seventh series has come out with some startling revelations as regards the extent and incidence of poverty in our country, as in many other developing countries. According to the Planning Commission, there are about 23 crores of people in our country who are living below the poverty line, and that was calculated on the basis of the intake of calories, particular quantum of calories. The revised estimates show that their number has increased to 38 crores. The Report says that 55 crores of people are living below the poverty line in India. The Government has given importance to seven thrust areas in the Common Minimum Programme in order to alleviate poverty in the country. They should take into account the latest UNDP Report, according to which 55 crores of people are living below the poverty line.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, mine is a question of breach of privilege...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KARIA MUNDA (Khunti) : Mr. Speaker, an agitation has been going on for the last 60-70 years for creation of a separate Vananchal or Jharkhand State by merging Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana. But no Government has so far given any thought to this matter or have expressed any concern in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow the hon. Member to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI KARIA MUNDA : The resentment among the people there is threatening to take violent form. People are agitating and a great unrest prevails there. In 1995, the Janta Dal Government of Bihar and the Central Government together had constituted a council but that council is toothless and going nothing. Therefore, we demand that the present Government consider creating a separate Vananchal State by merging Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Verma, I will allow you.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL (Chandni Chowk-Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, earlier also I had drawn your attention to the fact that the law and order in Delhi is in the heads of the hon. Home Minister. Delhi is the capital of the country and if murders take place here every now and then...*(Interruptions)* You cannot prevent me from speaking...*(Interruptions)**. The law and order situation is going from bad to worse in Delhi with each day passing...*(Interruptions)** and there has been an uproar in the Delhi State Assembly for several days. Sir, you please ask the hon. Home Minister to make a statement in this behalf...*(Interruptions)* They malign Bharatiya Janata Party...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. No, I cannot allow this any more. Zero Hour is our.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on? Everybody may sit down, please. I have allowed Mr. Verma.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL : Sir, I have raised an important issue. But you have not issued any directions.

[English]

Mr. Speaker : I will consider. You come to me. I will discuss with you...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Kodarma) : The hill areas of South Bihar have made a demand for a separate state. In that context, I wish to make my statement ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, for creation of a separate Vananchal (Jharkhand) State comprising Ratnagarbha—present 18 districts of hill areas of South Bihar, the people and the then leaders there, had made a demand through about 2000 memorandums before the State Reorganisation Corporation of 1954 but the same was ignored. Even before that also, the leaders there had made a similar demand and the Jharkhand agitation had been started as early as in 1938. It is the longest public agitation of the world.

About 2.5 crore neglected backward people living in this vast track rich in mineral and forest wealth have been compelled to live below the poverty line. The sole reason behind it is that the State and Central Governments have all along been nurturing an evil desire to continue to exploit unabated this vast track of land enjoying natural bounty...*(Interruptions)*

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* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.